

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 4, 2005 has been carefully reviewed along with the references cited therein. In the subject Office Action the Examiner objected to claim 6 for minor informalities. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Radliff (U.S. Patent No. 6,325,671). Claims 8-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,684,196). Claims 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith. Claim 14 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter.

As for the Election/Restriction requirement mailed January 13, 2005, Applicant cancels claims 19 and 20 from the application, without prejudice, and may seek these claims in a divisional application.

As for the claim objection, Applicant has amended claim 6 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Therefore, Applicant requests the removal of the claim objection.

As for claims 1-7, the Examiner found these claims to be anticipated by Radliff. Radliff fails to disclose each limitation as recited in claim 1. Claim 1 recites, among other things, "a clam-shell housing including a first portion attached to a second portion via a sliding hinge." The Examiner found Radliff to disclose a sliding hinge at reference numeral 170 and at column 4, line 63 and column 5, line 4. Radliff states "the housing portions 4 and 6 are shown as integrally molded about their edges." Column 4, lines 61-63. This is also apparent from FIGURE 3. Since the housing portions are integrally molded about their edges, it follows that one portion cannot slide with respect to the other portion; therefore, Radliff fails to disclose "a first portion attached to a second portion via a sliding hinge." Furthermore, since the housing portions in Radliff are integrally molded, it follows that one would not be motivated to modify the splicing enclosure 2 of Radliff such that it would include a sliding hinge. Accordingly, claim 1 defines over Radliff. Claims 2-7 also define over Radliff since they depend from claim 1.

Claims 8-15 were rejected as being anticipated by Smith. Claim 8 has been amended to include "a hinge attaching the first housing to the second housing." Smith fails to disclose such a hinge. Furthermore, Smith fails to provide any motivation for a hinge. The side channels 22 and opposing legs 23 in Smith would have to be modified to provide for such a hinge, and Smith provides no motivation for such a modification. Accordingly,

claim 8, as amended, patentably defines over Smith. Claims 9-15, which depend from claim 8, also define over Smith since they depend from claim 8, which defines over Smith.

Claim 12 has been amended to further define the hinge. Claim 12 recites "the hinge comprises a hoop-shaped appendage extending from the first housing." Smith fails to disclose a hinge comprising a hoop-shaped appendage. For this reason, claim 12 further defines over Smith.

Claim 16 was rejected as obvious in view of Smith. Claim 16 has been amended to recite that the second housing portion "is attached to the first housing portion via a sliding hinge." Smith fails to disclose a sliding hinge. Furthermore, Smith fails to provide any motivation to modify the electrical clamp connector 10 such that it would include a sliding hinge. The lack of motivation was discussed above with regard to claim 8. Accordingly, claim 16 and those depending from it patentably define over Smith.

Claims 21-23 have been added to the application. Claim 21 attempts to include the subject matter that the Examiner found allowable in the subject Office Action. Claim 23 depends from claim 9 to further define the clip.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted that all claims remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited. In any event, should the Examiner consider personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

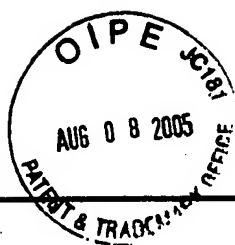
Respectfully submitted,

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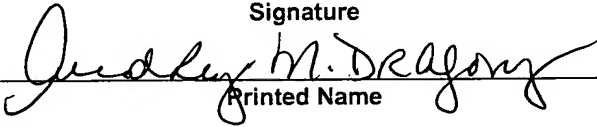
August 4, 2005
Date



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Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

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